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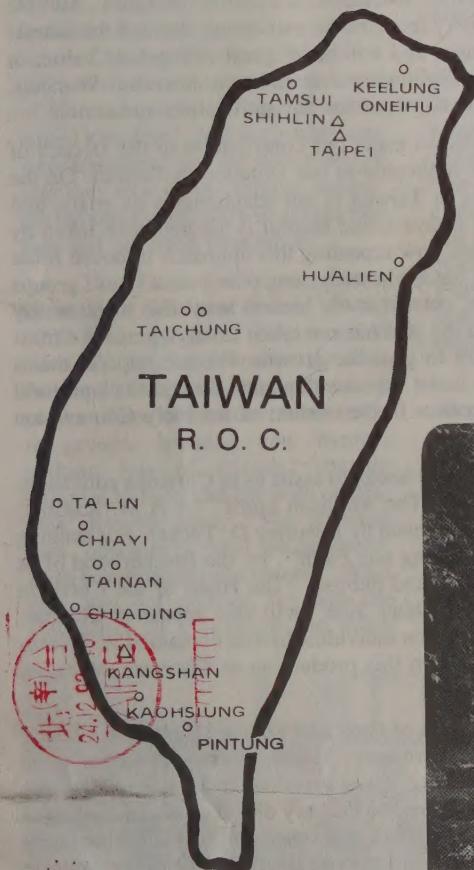
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Friendship

1992

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TAIWAN
R. O. C.



The Bishop of Taiwan, with the Japanese 'veterans' and the Provincial secretary Mr W.F. Honaman, ~~and Mrs Honaman~~, during Bishop Chien's visit to Japan. See story page 3.

THE TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1992

Dear Friends of Taiwan,

It has been good to hear from so many friends overseas in the last 12 months. "Friendship" magazine, going out to you once a year, is a good way of letting you know of the major or newsworthy events in our diocese's life.

The Taiwan Episcopal Church is currently in a 'low growth' cycle, 'replacement growth' it amounts to, partly due to cultural factors as the nation emerges as an economic power. So we as a diocese are putting our energy into a number of areas at once, laying foundations, I hope and pray, for the growth that is to come.

We have just been through a research process into ancestral worship, in order to find a clear and relevant direction to go in liturgy and instruction about ways of commemorating the dead. We have identified a major teaching point, to make a clear distinction between God and the spirits of the departed: this distinction gets blurred by traditional ideas and practices. We have examined customary ceremonies, many of which can be used within a Christian context, incense for instance, and the desire for memorial services seven days after a death, and repeated up to seven times. And we have revised the Funeral Rites, so that the Church can have an active ministry from the time of dying, through the funeral and into the memorial phase. This revision has reached the printing stage, and will be of great evangelical value, in leading those who mourn into a deeper faith and relationship with God. Following a seminar on Ancestral Worship, the Standing Committee will shortly present its findings to the Diocesan Convocation for ratification and action.

We have had a clear directive from the whole Anglican Communion to make our contribution to the Decade of Evangelism. Many ideas and programs current overseas seem to be not applicable to our situation in Taiwan. On the other hand, the Year 2000 Gospel Movement in the Protestant churches in Taiwan is not adaptable in its goals, and sometimes for theological reasons, to our parish style of ministry. What I have found helpful is the approach taken by the U.S. House of Bishops, namely, small group Bible studies, and we are now repeating this approach in house Bible studies. Our clergy conference two weeks ago was essentially a meeting for Bible study; our plan is that house groups will split and multiply and form the basis for outreach. The clergy and current study leaders want this to be a way of 'natural' growth rather than a program imposed from outside which in the past has not taken us anywhere. We must instruct and nourish our members from the Word of God and trust Him to give the growth. We are hopeful that a correspondence course of instruction in the faith will begin in 1993, to assist this development. In addition, pastoral care for aging people is to become one of our priorities; and healing services in the context of the Holy Communion liturgy will be used as another opportunity for evangelism.

We have obtained permission to translate into Chinese and publish several books to assist us in Christian education. To teach the Anglican tradition, we will translate and publish a version of "The Anglican Spirit" by A.M. Ramsay. For catechesis, our basis will be "Questions on the Way", an ecumenical catechism by Beverley D. Tucker. For training in evangelism, we have part of an Evangelism Equipping course, "Articulating our Faith", by the Brotherhood of St Andrew (USA). For adult Christian education, we are planning to translate and publish "The Heart of the Christian Faith" by Donald Coggan. A Bible Society publication "A Look from the Other Side" will also appear in Chinese. To upgrade the quality of singing in worship, we have produced a commentary on individual hymns contained in 'Hymns of Universal Praise'. Perhaps you would like to consider some cooperation in this production of Christian education material.

As you may know, I am keen to use the resources available in this part of Asia and to avoid duplication where possible. Some years ago, the diocese made a covenant with St Andrew's Seminary, Manila; and we are now in the process of making links with Trinity Theological Seminary in Singapore. We can see great advantages in using these fine institutions close at hand, and less point as the years go by in sending students into the very different cultural, political and language settings of Europe and America. Whenever possible, I get priests out into other dioceses for stimulating events; e.g. the visit of John Stott to Hong Kong was one such event, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to send Fr David Lai to that. I am also hoping we can set up exchange visits for our kindergarten headteachers between Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. The parish of St James' Taichung is sending two young lay people for experience in parish evangelism, to Sabah in January 1993, following a similar very helpful visit by one of our catechists last year. We are looking for other opportunities.

With Christmas close at hand, I take this opportunity to send you my Christmas greetings, and to wish you a blessed New Year.

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John Chien

Taiwan youth in pilgrimage to Taize

"The simple life-style" and "the 5-day silence" were the two most impressive features of the experience of Taize, the Taiwan delegates agree.

Eleven Anglicans went to the Taize center for pilgrimage in south-west France. They spent two weeks there at the end of summer, deliberately coinciding with a visit of a similar group of young Anglicans from Hong Kong and the group of 1000 led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The event was ecumenical and international, and among the languages were French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Rumanian and of course Chinese. The Good Shepherd delegates referred to this experience of Christian unity as 'the Christian united kingdom'. Although addresses were translated, and our young people said they took up the English choice, the famous hymns were so simple that they did not need translation.

The Taiwan delegates spent almost two weeks at Taize, among 6000 other pilgrims. For most of them, the first week was partly what they had anticipated, the community prayers three times a day, bible study in groups, learning new hymns, making lots of friends, sharing attitudes to faith and life with others. One delegate said, "We received care, opposite of what we deserved, from new brothers and sisters." What they had not planned for was the experience of a different and much



Jet-lagged, for most the first trip out of Taiwan, nine of the eleven young Anglicans from the diocese on their first day at Taize.

simpler life-style. In surroundings starkly simple, they said they had some adjustments to make, like to the possibility of sitting on the ground. One delegate said she is beginning to understand the Sermon on the Mount, that simplicity can be a Christian way of knowing poverty and its blessings. The possibilities of a simple life were something they wanted to bring home with them.

Nearly everyone had the 5-day silence option, and many appreciative comments were made about this experience. In a short pilgrimage, it was costly to take five days out for silence, when you could be using that time for making so many more friends. On the other hand, the extended silence was "unforgettable". It was "the source

of gentle feelings", in silence "we received a family, the bond of silence made us loving". "It has given me calmness in facing the future," said one. "I came closer to God in that beautiful place," said another. "I was surprised to find I could worship naturally." "I was never afraid."

The link with Taize was made several years ago when Bro. Lucas Ho from Taize visited the Bishop in Taipei. As a result, one cathedral parishioner was given a scholarship and visited Taize. A similar scholarship was provided for the group leader in 1992, and a four month stay. The students and young adults in the group paid a proportion of their costs, and received subsidies from their parishes and the diocese.



In much better spirits, the Anglicans from Taiwan, pictured with the Hong Kong contingent and Archbishop George Carey and Mrs Carey.

College links

A Task Force to organise a new world-wide association of Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion will meet in Japan in December.

The President of St John's and St Mary's Institute of Technology, Sinpu, Taiwan, Dr Andy Chang, will attend as a member of the Task Force. Other members include college heads from Britain, the USA and Japan. The Task Force will draft recommendations to be considered by participants at a conference in Canterbury in March 1993.

JAPANESE LINKS FORGED -- JAPANESE LINKS FORGE

There was an Anglican presence on the island of Taiwan long before Chinese congregations were formed. The Nippon Sei Ko Kai had members, clergy and at least one church building in Taipei during the years of the Japanese government of 'Formosa'. This undocumented period of church history had been bothering the Bishop of Taiwan, and in May of 1992 he was able to fill in some of the gaps.

Bishop Chien made a formal church-to-church visit at the invitation of the Primate of Japan, the Most Rev. Christopher Kikawada. He wanted to assist at the consecration of the new bishop for Kobe, and to make links of friendship with the bishops of that province. And he asked tentatively, while his itinerary was being planned, if it was possible to meet any surviving Japanese Anglicans who had lived in Taiwan. Now the Japanese had withdrawn in 1945. It sounded like a tall order.

Thanks to much behind-the scenes organisation by the Primatial Secretary, Mr W.F. Honaman, all the public episcopal duties were fulfilled, an extensive tour of the central dioceses showed much of the Japanese Church's work, and Bishop Chien was able to meet with nearly 30 'veterans' from the years of the Japanese in Taiwan.

The Bishop of Taiwan and the Bishop of Seoul, Korea, joined the Japanese bishops in consecrating the Rt Rev. John Junichiro Furumoto on May 12 in Kobe Cathedral. His enthronement as Bishop of Kobe took place at the same service. It was an additional pleasure for Bishop Chien, because two bishops from the Japanese Church had assisted at his own consecration some years ago.



Bishop Chien presenting a Chinese scroll to the Bishop of Kobe, the Rt Rev. John Furumoto, after his consecration on May 12.



The Bishop of Taiwan, addressing the Japanese House of Bishops, during his visit to the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

The Japanese House of Bishops met for two days after the consecration, and they asked Bishop Chien to address them on the work in the Taiwan Episcopal Church. After comparing notes, Bishop Chien remarked on great similarities between the two churches, particularly in slow growth and the difficulties for evangelism, and also in the impact of the U.S.A. on both cultures.

Bishop Chien was able to see representative slices of Japanese Anglican life on a tour that took him through Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya and Tokyo. He said that the Anglican institutions, hospitals, 112 kindergartens and 40 colleges, and homes for the elderly, have been the cutting edge for evangelism in Japan. He noted a decline in the need for the present church kindergartens there, as young families have fewer children, and with the movement of families out of the larger cities; this pattern is becoming apparent gradually in Taiwan too. The Bishop admired the new Provincial Offices in Tokyo, "worthy, and accessible", and was impressed by St Luke's Memorial Hospital, which gives quality care, "perhaps the best in Asia", in single-bed wards. The NSKK has two theological seminaries, in Tokyo and Kyoto. Most students receive scholarships from their diocese or parish in order to study for ordination.

JAPANESE LINKS FORGED -- JAPANESE LINKS FORGED

On his way to Tokyo, the Bishop was able to visit former parishioners of Good Shepherd Church, Taipei, the Thurwachters, in Nagoya. In Tokyo he preached at Kanda Christ Church.

He met with 'veterans' who had been in Taiwan before 1945 at two reunions arranged in Kyoto and Tokyo. He said that these gatherings were good in being sentimental, and also in expressing Anglican world-wide unity. The 'veterans' filled in some of the historical blanks using pictures and their memories. Apparently the visit was important for the Japanese too: within five months two of the veterans had made a return-visit to Bishop Chien in Taipei.



Veterans make a return-visit: Mrs Grace Chien and the Bishop (back row) with Mr R. Niimura (left) and Mr and Mrs T. Hayami.

Keeping up-to-date on Trinity Hall

Trinity Hall, our theological college-without-walls, continued on its steady course of development in 1992. More students are attending courses, and the college is offering more diverse activities. This contribution is laying down solid ground for future progress.

The mainstream theological subjects continue to be taught; in addition, special projects have been undertaken.

1. Extension of studies to central and southern Taiwan:

Two series, of six lectures each, were held in Taichung (St James') and Kaohsiung (St Paul's). One series was on "Anglicanism", the other on "The Christian Faith".

2. Seminars:

- (a) on Ancestral Worship, a long-awaited study. Three short papers were presented, giving three perspectives on the subject. Canon Samuel Chen looked at Traditional Chinese Culture, Dr Wang Hsien Chih at Theology, and Dr David Chee at Pastoral Theology. Professor Herbert Ma gave a personal testimony on family practice. In addition, Professor Fang Chih Rong, head of the Graduate Department of Religion, Fugen University, presented the view of the Roman Catholic Church. The seminar papers have been published, the first publication by Trinity Hall.
- (b) on Animism, and on the Holy Eucharist, by Dean Henry Kiley of St Andrew's Seminary in Manila, seminars held in Taipei.

Other activities and events included

- * Discussions with the Methodist Church on possibilities for a joint seminary in conjunction with, or cooperation with, Trinity Theological College in Singapore. This exploration was important, though it now seems possible that the Methodist Church will want to do it alone.
- * The Rev. Samuel Liao, who has been teaching church history in Trinity Hall, will be sent for further studies overseas, perhaps towards a Masters degree in Theology. He already has M. Div. and a year of further theological study in New Zealand.
- * Dean Henry Kiley came for an intensive lecture segment in our Systematic Theology II course. It was good to have his contribution, following our agreement signed with St Andrew's Seminary Manila three years ago.
- * Eight years from its inception, Trinity Hall has made its first awards. The Certificate of Theological Study (CTS) was awarded to Mr and Mrs Chen Teh Pei, mature-age students and already catechists. A touching thanksgiving service in the Cathedral on July 24, at which the awards were made, was followed by a reception attended by an unexpected crowd of well-wishers.

There is a lot of interest in Trinity Hall's further expansion, in lay training and into correspondence courses. However, such expansion is limited, as the college functions without full-time staff and there are constraints on the amount of time and energy that parish clergy can give to lecturing.

— David Chee, Rector,
Good Shepherd Church, Shihlin

Growing younger at Good Shepherd

One of the surprising things about a chaplaincy church, like the English-speaking congregation at Good Shepherd Church, Shihlin, is that it must renew itself with new members every year from September. And it does. The dozen or so that continue from year to year provide continuity, and a base from which to build each year. In 1992 the growth in numbers has been exceptional, and we've been seeing 60 at the English Eucharist since early November. This year shows a different pattern, of young families with one, two or three children; six such families swung the balance of interest so much that we had a Sunday school picnic in mid-November, and it was a rousing success. It was for single adults, parents with their children away, as well as the children and their real parents; parents are generous and share their children with everyone, and the children themselves are generous with their affection, which can make up for the shortage of social contacts when families live overseas.

We find our life renewed in other ways as well: one adult to be baptised in early December, and three younger people to be confirmed. Last year three different groups of adults were prepared and then confirmed in English by Bishop Chien, and yet all but two of those people have moved on to other countries to work. It is a joy to be involved in this ministry but sad to say so many farewells.

During the past year the congregation has been meeting for fellowship once a month on a week-night, in parishioners' homes. This is an additional occasion to invite newcomers to, making their adjustment to island life that much easier as well as strengthening the church. The evening always concludes with a celebration of Holy Communion, and the program is often led by lay members. On three occasions, a program of 'telling stories' of several individual personal journeys of faith has been the focus, which has deepened the fellowship.



Having fun together on a parish picnic, six daughters of four church families run the three-legged-race in a park on Yang Ming mountain, after attending Good Shepherd church.

Recently, a Friday night Bible study has been bringing a smaller number together to work on St Matthew's Gospel. I continue to visit weekly in a large government hospital, where it is common to find two or three expatriates in for surgery or treatment, and appreciative of a pastoral visit. Every Wednesday morning I have travelled out to the prison with a group from several churches, to visit English-speaking expats serving sentences. The congregation contributes 'in kind' with magazines, personal needs and money for the fruit we take in to the prisoners.

It has been an adventure to move into a new hymn book for English services. Many people helped in the selection of the book, "Hymns for Today's Church", from England. It has kept and even revived many old tunes and words, as well as adding new ones. It has also tastefully rephrased old favourites to make them gender inclusive. We were without a pianist for some months,

but found plenty in this book we could use unaccompanied.

Observers have noted that relatively fewer Americans are coming to Taiwan and more Europeans. In the congregation it is great to see an increase from England South Africa and New Zealand; we still have a good number of American and Canadian worshippers, but they are not in a majority. We enjoy the ones who remain.

— David G. Cobbett,
Chaplain, Good Shepherd Church

The Rev. David Cobbett, chaplain to the English-speaking congregation at Good Shepherd Church, Shihlin, will complete his two-year ministry in Taiwan at the end of January 1993. He will return to Australia to become rector of St Cuthbert's Prospect, diocese of Adelaide.

A new chaplain is soon to be appointed.

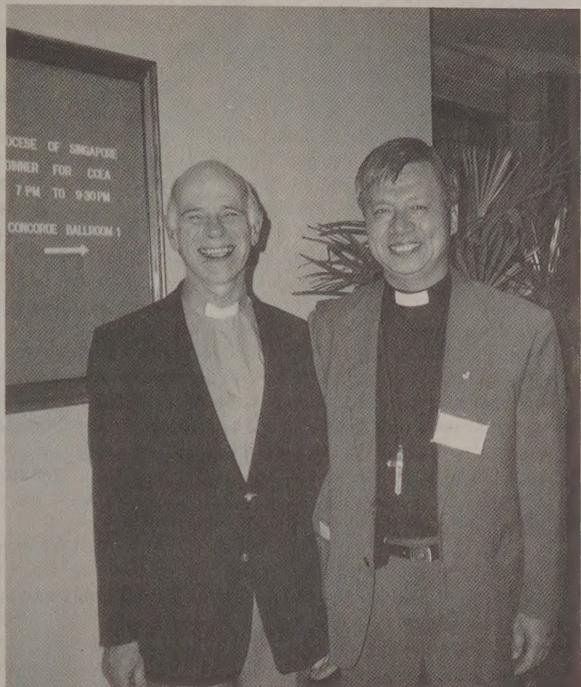
CCEA bishops in-service studies in evangelism

"I came home with homework to do: 10 books to read, and that's just the beginning," Bishop Chien reported, on his return from the Bishops' Meeting for the Council of the Church of East Asia.

This was a different style of CCEA Bishops' Meeting, now that Partners-in-Mission has become the concern of the three regions. Two days out of the six were spent in lectures and discussion with Canon Michael Green, one of the Church of England's two 'springboards' for leading thinking in the Decade of Evangelism. All the bishops were grateful to the Bishop of Singapore, Dr Moses Tay, chairman, host and initiator of the program.

Bishop Chien said Canon Green's input was interesting and inspiring, and provided him with plenty to consider, about the Anglican way of evangelism. He made lot of good suggestions for using worship and liturgy for evangelism, and for using preaching for decision by the hearers. In person-to-person evangelism, he provided ideas out of the Anglican culture, which has its own, distinctive, approach.

This November meeting took place in Singapore, and it was the first time for some years that the Archbishop of Myanmar (Burma as it was) was able to attend. It was also the first time that spouses were encouraged to accompany their husbands, and a special program was arranged for the bishops' wives.



Canon Michael Green (left), lecturer in the Decade of Evangelism, with Bishop John Chien at the CCEA Bishops' Meeting in Singapore.

30th Anniversary, Good Shepherd

Many of our readers have memories of worshipping in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shihlin, in northern Taipei. Good Shepherd will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year, 1993, and plans have been made to use the occasions to extend the congregation's impact in the community. Watch for the story in our next issue!

During the year just past, ideas for redeveloping the site have been considered. No immediate work is on the drawing-board, but the process of the parish's thinking may interest those of our readers with former links to Good Shepherd.

The Rector, Fr David Chee, wrote of this matter for "Friendship" magazine:

Discussion of a major redevelopment project started over four years ago. The details of the dream church of the future took some time to build up, and the project called "Good Shepherd Village Church" finally took shape early this year (1992). The theological rationale was good stewardship, and that motive continues to be relevant, even though the details are still debated.

In essence, we are looking towards turning the prime real estate block, in one of the choicest parts of Taipei (but enjoyed by just over 150 Sunday worshippers) into something that will contribute more adequately to the growth of the congregation and the service of the

community and the diocese. Perhaps the original project was too big. The plan did not attract the desired approval and support.

Accordingly, the parish vestry in October decided to embark on a smaller-scale redevelopment that would still incorporate some of the original ideas. At the time of writing, this plan too seems to have hit rock.

We are continuing to study the possibilities. We were well served for the first 30 years, and are grateful. We want the next generation to feel as we do.

Goodbye ...

The parish of St James' Taichung said Good-bye to Dr and Mrs Alan Haslup at the beginning of summer '92. They had been parishioners for 13 years, and Dr Haslup had also been a lay-reader. He was attached to the Changhua Christian Hospital.

Dr Haslup wrote his reminiscences for "Friendship" magazine:

When we first came to Taiwan in 1978, we cut an add out of the paper with the address of Good Shepherd Church, Taipei, and gave it to a taxidriver. When the meter read 300 NT and the driver seemed unable to find anything that looked like a church, we had no choice but to have him take us home. We found out later the address had been printed wrong in the paper.

We soon met the Rev. Graham and Mrs Lois Ogden who helped us locate the church. Coming from a large Episcopal church in St Petersburg Florida, we didn't know what to expect from a foreign church so far from home. Even though we only lived in Taipei for a year before moving to Taichung, we have many fond memories of the people connected with Good Shepherd church. For one thing, it was a place where we could communicate in English, which was a blessing as we had only started our language studies. Many people were very kind to us, and opened their homes for parish brunches once a month. Maggie Hanson, who has since that time become an Episcopal priest in the U.S.A., was at that time our choir director and organist. She tried to make us into a choir, especially for Christmas music, and would bribe us into coming for practice with the promise of eggnog.

After a year we moved to Taichung. We were sorry to leave Good Shepherd, especially when we realised that there was no English-speaking congregation at St James' Episcopal Church. We had been studying Mandarin for some time by then, so we started attending St James' Chinese service. We were surprised and uplifted at how quickly we felt accepted and supported by the Chinese congregation. Some years later when an English-speaking congregation was started at St James', we were once more reluctant to switch, but soon we found there were many joys in associating with fellow westerners.

Now that we are facing leaving Taiwan to return to the U.S. and our large home-congregation, we realise how much we will miss the experience of being part of a small, close group of Christians. In truth I think congregations are like kittens, ever so much more fun than ones than have grown large. Like cats, large congregations get set in their ways and are much less interested in experimentation.

Beside fellow parishioners, our rector, the Rev. Charles Chen, and his wife Mary Jo, and the former rector, the Rev. Henry Pan, and his family have gone out of their way to be kind to us. When we leave Taiwan we will miss many things including the delicious food, but most of all the people, both Chinese and western, who have been so kind to us.



The farewell to Dr and Mrs Haslup in Taichung, with the Bishop (left) and Canon Charles Chen (right).

... and hello!



Miss Claire Tilley, working in the parish of Taichung.

Claire Tilley, a young English woman, has been working in the parish of Taichung since August 1992. She is teaching English in the parish kindergarten, and some kinder teachers in the evenings, as well as doing the vicar's secretarial work. In the afternoons she is having Mandarin lessons. She was

introduced to Taiwan by the Church Missionary Society in England.

Claire has a Bachelor of Education majoring in Religious Studies, and two years' experience teaching in a South London primary school.

"Friendship" magazine asked her what led her to this place, and she responded:

"Even at an early age I felt that part of God's plan for my life would be to spend some time living and working for him abroad. I have always enjoyed travelling and have been fascinated by cross-cultural mission. In 1991 I applied to the Church Missionary Society. They suggested that I should go on a CMS Experience Camp. So I spent August 1991 in Nigeria visiting churches and working on a church building project. The following February I was contacted by CMS about a possible position as a kindergarten teacher in Taichung, Taiwan. The Far East has always held a particular interest for me."

The speed with which an interview with the CMS area secretary was arranged, and other details falling into place, seemed to point to this being where the Lord was leading me. After several interviews and much prayer I accepted. I arrived in Taichung in late August.

So far, life has been so busy that I've hardly had time to find out exactly what the Lord has for me to do here. Many of the kindergarten teachers are not Christians, and in the course of the days and evenings I have been able to talk about my faith and what Jesus has done. I hope to continue to do this and eventually to change some of my English lessons into English bible studies. I am also able to bring something of the Christian message to the kindergarten children, mainly through teaching them Christian songs.

— Claire Tilley,
Taichung, October 1992